

# Congressman Bill Posey

SERVING THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT OF FLORIDA



Dear Friend,

Our nation faces a number of issues that will impact you, your family and the future direction of our nation. I know your time is valuable, so thank you for taking a few minutes to read about some of the issues that are important to our community and growing our economy.

The past several years have been very challenging for many Americans. While there has been a lot of talk in the media about the "economic recovery" you and I know that most middle class Americans continue to be squeezed economically by stagnant wages and rising costs for the basics of life – food, shelter, clothing, electric bills, gasoline, and the costs of college and medical care. On a national level the jobs that have been created since 2009 have not really kept up with the number of younger Americans entering the workforce and too many have been lower-paying entry-level jobs.

The United States can and must do better. We need stronger economic growth and job creation in higher paying jobs if we are going to make sure that Americans have the opportunity we all want and need to prosper individually and as a nation.

A more robust economy is essential if we are going to relieve the middle class squeeze. We must create millions of new higher paying jobs that enable the middle class to afford life's basic needs. A stronger economy will also enable us to get our federal budget deficit under control and begin paying down the national debt.

Thank you again for taking a few minutes to look over the issues addressed and I would very much welcome your feedback. Please take a moment to fill out and return the reply card to share your thoughts on these and other issues – or you may do so online at [www.posey.house.gov/surveysummer2014](http://www.posey.house.gov/surveysummer2014).

Sincerely,

Bill

## Strengthening the Middle Class - Creating Jobs - Ending the Middle Class Squeeze

"If there was ever a doubt about whether Washington's unelected bureaucracy is out of touch with the American people, look no further than this 44 foot tall stack of federal regulations they have issued in just the past 3 years."

—Bill Posey







## Working to Support Job Creation Here in the 8th Congressional District, Rep. Posey Has Focused on:

- ✓ **Creating Jobs and Expanding Business at Port Canaveral** – Secured federal approval of port channel deepening and widening creating local jobs.
- ✓ **Supporting Local Defense Industry** – Advanced funding for programs important to local employers - Harris Corp, Northrup-Grumman, DRS, Rockwell-Collins, Lockheed-Martin, Boeing, Embraer and others strengthening national security and local jobs.
- ✓ **Creating Business Opportunities for Local Employers** - Hosted Federal Contacting and Entrepreneur summits attended by hundreds of small businesses.
- ✓ **Promoting Local Defense Base Expansions** - Secured funding for construction of the new Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC) center at Patrick AFB, and supported the expanded mission of the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU).
- ✓ **Fighting Citrus Disease** – Helped secure funding to combat citrus canker and greening diseases.
- ✓ **Promoting the Local Fishing Industry** – Opposed excessive regulatory over-reach harmful to our local fishing community.

## Building a Stronger American Space Program

Posey opposed the human space flight gap that began when Constellation was abruptly canceled in 2010. Since then he has been working to focus NASA funding to close the space gap, maintain U.S. supremacy in space, and build a stronger commercial space sector along the Space Coast.

- ✓ **Secured Record-Level Funding for NASA's Commercial Crew Program (\$740 Million)** – Launching American astronauts on American vehicles from American soil – will end our reliance on Russia.
- ✓ **Growing Space Entrepreneurs Here on the Space Coast** - Coauthored the SOARS Act (H.R. 3038) to license space training and tourism businesses.
- ✓ **Advancing Asteroid Mining** – Developing bipartisan legislation enabling U.S. entrepreneurs to engage in asteroid mining for precious metals.
- ✓ **Upgrading Range Communications Hub (XY Building) at the Cape** – Authored language directing the Dept. of Defense to make funding for critical commercial and government space launch infrastructure a budget priority.
- ✓ **Using Excess Air Force Infrastructure for Commercial Launches** – Authored Race for Space Law to facilitate use of excess Air Force infrastructure for commercial launches.
- ✓ **Making Excess NASA Launch Infrastructure Available for Commercial Use** – The Shuttle Landing Facility leased to Space Florida for commercial use, KSC's Pad 39A has been leased, and other KSC facilities are being leased to expand commercial space presence on the Space Coast.



## Posey's Personal Accountability Checklist:

Rep. Posey believes that leading by example is a critical part of restoring the public trust.

- ✓ **Blocking Congressional pay raises** for 2010-2014.
- ✓ **Returned pay raise every year** (raise was approved before coming to Congress in 2009).
- ✓ **Returned full pay for service during the government shutdown.**
- ✓ **No special exemptions** – Enrolled in an Obamacare Exchange (same as staff).
- ✓ **Cut his own office budget** by \$600,000 over the past 5 years and cut overall Congressional budget by 20% over the past three years.
- ✓ **Rejects taxpayer-funded or lobbyist-funded overseas trips.**

## Holding Washington Accountable:

Rep. Posey also believes that government works for you and as such it should be accountable to you.

- ✓ **Posey's Rule: "If I Can't Read It, My Vote Is NO"** – Introduced 72 hour requirement so the public and Congress can review bills before a House floor vote can take place (Adopted as House Rule Reform).
- ✓ **Opposing "Too Big to Read" bills** that spend hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars with no accountability.
- ✓ Cosponsored and voted for the **STOCK Act** to ensure that Members of Congress don't trade stock based on insider information. (S. 2038)
- ✓ **Stopping Washington's revolving door** by banning Members of Congress from lobbying for 5 years after leaving office. (Introduced H.R. 440)
- ✓ Holding federal agencies financially liable to repay losses when regulators overreach.
- ✓ Cosponsored and voted for creation of Select Committee to investigate Benghazi.
- ✓ Voted to hold former top IRS official Lois Lerner in Contempt of Congress.
- ✓ Introduced legislation allowing citizens the "right to sue" federal employees who intentionally misuse your personal health, tax or financial records.
- ✓ Cosponsored Constitutional Balanced Budget Amendment.

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## Ending the Middle Class Squeeze

The middle class has been squeezed economically from stagnant wages and rising costs for everyday basics: food, electricity, gas, college costs and health insurance.

- ✓ **Keeping a Lid on Electricity Bills** – Voted for H.R. 3826 to prohibit the EPA from issuing additional regulations that drive up electricity prices.
- ✓ **Restoring Work Hours** – Voted for H.R. 2575 repealing the provision of Obamacare that incentivizes employers to cut work hours from 39 hours a week to 29 hours a week. The 29-hour rule has led many workers to lose 25% of their income.
- ✓ **Opposing Higher Electricity costs** – Voted to stop the cap & trade/carbon national energy tax.
- ✓ **Increasing Take Home Pay** – Working to build a stronger economy with more jobs so that businesses compete for workers increasing pay and benefits.
- ✓ **Lowering the Cost of Medical Care** – Working to repeal and replace Obamacare to give American's more affordable health care choices.
- ✓ **Repealing Washington's ability to "tax" your auto, life and homeowners insurance to bailout Wall Street.** (Introduced bipartisan H.R. 605)



## Investing in a Stronger Workforce & Better Job Opportunities

- ✓ **STEM in the Schools Initiative** – Posey has partnered with Space Coast Women in Defense (WID) to advance Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in our local high schools.
- ✓ **Improving Adult Employment Training** so local employers have more input into the process leading those served to actual jobs. (Voted for the SKILLS Act, H.R. 803)
- ✓ **Success Act** – Empowering local school boards and the states to set K-12 standards rather than unaccountable bureaucrats in Washington. (Voted for H.R. 5)

## Protecting and Preserving our Environment

Having grown up on the Space Coast and run a realty business here, Rep Posey understands the value of the lagoon to our quality of life and economy. He has been an advocate for a healthier lagoon in Congress.

- ✓ **Voted to Reauthorize the National Estuary Program (NEP)** - Providing important funding for the Indian River Lagoon NEP. (H.R. 4715)
- ✓ **Shepherding the Harmful Algal Research Funding Legislation Through the House and Into Law** – Authorizes \$20 million per year for nationwide algae bloom research benefiting our lagoon.
- ✓ **Addressing Urgent Estuary Needs** - Leading bipartisan effort to move millions of estuary dollars from Washington bureaucracy to actual estuary improvement projects. (Appropriations request)
- ✓ **Marine Mammal Research & Rescue** – Advocated for Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Program that matches local funding for stranded marine mammal response. (Multi-year appropriations request)
- ✓ **Everglades Restoration Support** - Advocated for authorizing Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) to end discharges into lagoon from Lake Okeechobee. (Coauthored House amendment)
- ✓ **Extending Refuge Volunteer Programs** – Supported passage of H.R. 1300.
- ✓ **Co-Chair of Indian River Lagoon Caucus.**





## Fighting for Small Businesses – America's #1 Job Creators

- ✓ **Lowering tax burden for small businesses** so they can put money into hiring and expanding (Voted for H.R. 4457, America's Small Business Tax Relief Act)
- ✓ **Expanding access to capital** (Authored bipartisan H.R. 927, Common Sense Economic Recovery Act, and voted for H.R. 1105 & H.R. 3448)
- ✓ **Lowering the cost of North American Energy** (see below)
- ✓ **Putting the Brakes on Excessive Mountain of Federal Regulations** – (Voted for the REINS Act, H.R.1105, H.R. 2575, H.R. 2804, H.R. 1062)
- ✓ **Greater Economic Stability** - Authored bipartisan legislation to give financial institutions greater regulatory certainty when offering loans and other financial products and services. (H.R. 4667)
- ✓ **Promote Growing Small Businesses** by easing regulation and taxes that undermine small business growth and expansion (voted for H.R. 2274 and H.R. 4457)



### Why is North American Energy So Important?

- Reduces our dependence on unstable Middle East oil
- Creates American energy jobs
- Lowers energy costs
- Makes American workers more competitive
- Reduces America's trade deficit

### What Has Posey Done to Advance Affordable America Energy?

- Voted for the Keystone Pipeline
- Put the brakes on high-cost EPA regulations
- Streamlined regulations for American energy projects
- Voted for "all of the above" energy initiatives
- Voted against the carbon tax/cap & trade/national energy tax

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For more information on my work in Congress, to sign up to receive my E-newsletter, or to participate in telephone town hall meetings, please visit

**[www.posey.house.gov](http://www.posey.house.gov)**  
or call (321) 632-1776.



## Holding the VA Accountable and Fixing the Claims Backlog:



Caption: Rep. Posey attends a recent press conference in the Capitol calling on the Administration to hold the VA accountable for mistreatment of veterans.

The VA Inspector General (IG) released a report to Congress on May 28th finding deception, malfeasance, incompetence and outright abuse of our veterans at some of our nation's VA facilities. Rep Posey is supporting near-term and long-term fixes for the VA, which has failed veterans. Among the changes are (1) authority to fire bad VA managers, (2) guaranteeing timely access to medical care, (3) additional funding to speed claims processing and (4) suspending employee bonus payments, (H.R. 4810, H.R. 2072)

### Constituent Issue Survey

My idea for creating jobs: \_\_\_\_\_

Should the House approve the Senate-passed immigration bill?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

President Obama's health care law should be:

☐ Repealed ☐ Left as is ☐ Modified

How has the new health care law affected you personally?

Restoring our Indian River Lagoon is primarily a:

☐ Personal responsibility ☐ Local and state responsibility  
☐ Federal responsibility ☐ All of the above ☐ Unsure

Federal environmental regulations should:

☐ Be made stronger ☐ Stay the same ☐ Allow more flexibility

Congress should block national energy taxes/carbon emissions taxes:

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Unsure

Do you support federal investments in our national space program?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Tackling the national debt: Cut spending on: \_\_\_\_\_

CIRCLE ONE:

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Mr. & Mrs. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

☒ **YES, I would like to receive regular e-mail updates from Congressman Bill Posey.**

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print clearly. E-mail addresses are not shared with anyone.